



# *COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

*Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull  
Commissioner

April 27, 2017

**TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY**

**FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**RE: CLOSURE OF VIRGINIA'S DIRECTED OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY**

Effective 11:59 P.M., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Sunday, April 30, 2017, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will close. Vessels that have entered Virginia waters and secured to an offloading site prior to 11:59 P.M., EDT, Sunday, April 30, 2017, may possess and offload up to 7,500 pounds of summer flounder, minus any previous landings since March 1, 2017.

Therefore, after 11:59 P.M., EDT, Sunday, April 30, 2017, it shall be unlawful for any person harvesting Summer Flounder outside of Virginia's waters to do any of the following:

1. Possess on board any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 10% by weight, of Atlantic croaker or the combined landings, on board a vessel, of black sea bass, scup, squid, scallops and Atlantic mackerel.
2. Possess on board any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 1,500 pounds, landed in combination with Atlantic croaker.
3. Fail to land and sell the vessel's entire harvest at the point of landing.

The bycatch provisions above will be in place after 11:59 P.M., EDT, Sunday, April 30, 2017 until the second opening of the Directed Offshore Fishery. Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess summer flounder harvested outside of Virginia's waters. The buyer shall continue to contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station prior to a vessel offloading any summer flounder harvested outside Virginia.

*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

The buyer shall provide Operations Station (757-247-2265 or 1-800-541-4646) the name of the vessel, captain's name and the anticipated or approximate offloading time. Once offloading of any vessel is complete and the weight of the landed summer flounder has been determined, the buyer shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station and report the vessel name and corresponding weight of summer flounder landed. It shall be unlawful for any person to offload from a boat or vessel for commercial purposes any summer flounder during the period of 9:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.

Vessels seeking safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station in advance of entry into Virginia waters. Any vessel declaring a need for safe harbor may be subject to inspection by the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

If you have questions or comments, contact Joe Cimino at (757) 247-2236 or Jill Ramsey at (757) 247-2243.